

Berkeleyans Browse Among the

Ancient Delights of Japan

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of articles written by student Benjamin Gregg, who has been reporting a day-to-day account of the recent trip to Sakai, Japan, by members of the 1971 Berkeley-Sakai Student Exchange Program.)

By BENJAMIN GREGG

For the last days of their visit to Japan, the Berkeley students were treated to beauty and esthetics of ancient and traditional Japan — touring the cities of Nara and Kyoto, both historical art centers and both ancient imperial capitals.

The students from Berkeley and their guides — students from their host families and members of the local Interact Club — gathered at Shiminkakon for an hour's bus ride to Nara. For an hour and a half we toured Horyuji Temple (Buddhist) — the oldest wooden structure in the world.

Leaving at 11:30 a.m., we arrived at Yakushiji Temple (Buddhist), most renowned for its ornate nine-story pagoda.

THIS PARTICULAR pagoda, centuries old, was taken down piece-by-piece during the second world war to avoid being damaged. After the way it was reconstructed precisely as it had stood centuries earlier. Like the Horyuji Temple, the Yakushiji had a square central building housing a different image of Buddha on each side, including one of the rare images of Buddha in a reclining position.

Both of the ancient temples were of simple architecture, yet much ornamentation was displayed in the infinite number of metal lanterns of each temple, and of course the gold-leafed Buddhas were elaborate in style. As usual, we were very rushed and our tour of Yakushiji ended in a mere 40 minutes.

AFTER LUNCH, the students went through Deer Park to reach Kasuga Shrine (Shintoist). We were first met in this park by deerfood vendors, which immediately ex-

plained the tameness of the many deer in the park. Several students purchased deer-cakes, and shortly found themselves surrounded by the deer. If the cake was held above the head of the animal, the deer would "bow" (by nodding its head) until fed. There is a religious reason for this treatment of the deer — according to Buddhist doctrine, Buddha was to have ridden a deer as he traveled spreading his religion.

ONCE THROUGH Deer Park, we arrived at Kasuga Shrine at 2:30. We were not allowed to enter any of this shrine's buildings. However, it was possible to appreciate the beauty of the surrounding gardens. Typical of the traditional Japanese garden, there were few flowers, and green flora predominated.

As the students walked around in small groups, their guides explained the garden's history. Kasuga's connection with Deer Park was evident: many of the rock and steel lanterns outside the shrine

bore deer figures. Also of interest was that several of Kasuga's buildings were built on pillars, standing perhaps 5½ feet above ground level. This kept the contents of these storage rooms dry and cool.

Our next stop was at the Todaiji Temple.

THE TODAIJI TEMPLE has a very large area in which there are many buildings. The Daibutsu-Den Hall or Great Image of Buddha Hall is the main building of the temple.

The Great Image of Buddha, cast in 749 A.D., and its building were burnt twice during the Japanese civil wars. It is possible to recognize the three different parts of the statue by the slight but noticeable variations in shade of color.

The base is the original one — 1200 years old, the body 800 years old, and the head 300 years old.

THIS BUDDHA is the biggest in Japan, and the building housing it is the largest

wooden structure in the world. Inside the Daibutsu-Den Hall it was possible to walk completely around the Buddha, savoring the view from all angles.

One of the pillars supporting the building has a hole carved into its base — this square hole is the size of one of the Buddha's nostrils. Children are brought here, one guide told me, so that they can crawl through this hole, and by so doing to grow to become an intelligent person.

WE HAD DINNER and were accommodated for that night in Japanese-style dormitories at Tenrikyo, by courtesy of Mr. Hirono, a member of the Sakai Rotary Club. Tenrikyo is the largest of Japan's new religions (founded in 1838) and is surrounded by Tenri City.

The method of praying was demonstrated (clapping one's hands together 4 times, bowing to the "altar," and clapping again 4 times), and the students prayed in two different sanctuaries, as asked.

After that we enjoyed a half-hour of traditional music played by an ensemble of perhaps 10 men (they performed just for us — we were the only audience).

HOWEVER, IT must be admitted that our enthusiasm was somewhat dampened due to our hunger, fatigue, and craving for a bath — typical symptoms of travel.

Dinner (which we especially enjoyed) was Japanese food eaten on tatami mats, served by naisans (dinnermaid).

After dinner we enjoyed a short, international beer-drinking contest.

PARTICIPATING were Christofer Frasco, Assistant Leader Bob Morris, Brandon Gregg and Haryuki Zenatani, a 1971 S.B.S.E. member. Zenatani won each round, consistently downing a glass of beer in two seconds flat; Morris did some fast drinking as well.

That night seemed to most of us to be the warmest night of our stay in Japan, and thus somewhat uncomfortable. However, the four above-mentioned students slept particularly well.

(To be continued)

'Sakai Kids' Continue Trek Through Orient

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By BENAJMIN GREGG

Kyoto is blessed with more beautiful buildings, gardens and temples than any other city in Japan. There are more than 1,600 Buddhist temples and some 300 Shinto shrines in the city.

For the next two days the Berkeley students gained perspective on these temples, shrines and gardens.

WE LEFT TENRI, in Nara, for Kyoto at 8 a.m. Although these two cities are relatively close, traffic was so slow that our commute took two hours.

First on the agenda was the Katsura Imperial Villa. Katsura was founded in the early seventeenth century by Prince Toshihito of Hachi-jono-miya, a house of the imperial blood.

The first stage of the Villa had been completed under his direction, and the second stage, the new extension of the villa, was begun in 1642 by Prince Toshitada, son of Prince Toshihito. It covers an area of about 13.3 acres including its attached land.

In the center of the area is a pond with irregular shore lines and five islands.

THERE ARE several pavilions around the pond and connecting paths, and several different forms of landscape are seen—mountains, fields, rivers, beaches. The main house, formed by three parts, was so precisely built as to avoid sunshine in the summer, to face the full moon on an autumn evening, and to receive mild winter rays.

A 45-minute tour along the

We were allowed to enter some of the garden pavilions, but no one is allowed inside the main house—it was possible, though, to view a section of the interior through an opened screen.

OUR TOUR WAS a very rare privilege—the Japanese must try for many years to be admitted on one of the daily tours, and are not always successful. Although it is easier for foreigners to get permission to see Katsura than it is for the native Japanese, the Berkeleyans will probably never be able to see Katsura again.

PERMISSION for our students was arranged by the Sakai City Government with the Office of the Imperial Household. This wonderful chance was appreciated—it would be difficult to convey the absolute aesthetic quality of Katsura. (To be admitted, some of the students had to "adjust" their age, as it is required that all visitors be at least 20 years of age.)

At 11 a.m. the students walked through the near-by Kokedera Temple (Buddhist), or Moss Temple.

This is an exquisite garden of green—all ground was covered by a carpet of lush green moss, shaded by trees and made into islands by criss-crossing streams of clear water, covered with green lily pads.

ALSO GROWING at Kokedera was a patch of bamboo, extending maybe 15 feet into the air.

After lunch, the students stopped at the Nijoh Castle. This is a beautiful old fortress enclosed by a high wall composed of massive stones and a wide moat.

Inside the main building are wide corridors between rooms.

When a person walks on one of these passage-ways, sounds remarkably close to the chime

THIS DEVICE, to be found in other buildings as well, served as a warning system against intruders.

All rooms were spacious and adorned with articles of beauty, creating the atmosphere of wealthy nobility in feudal Japan. The room in which the Emperor received important guests contained three doors in the wall behind the throne.

These are closets, where guards could listen to the conversation, and break-out to protect the emperor if the conversation indicated that harm might come to him.

THE STUDENTS toured the gardens of the Kinkakuji Temple (Buddhist), or the Golden Pavilion. These are more of the Japanese traditional gardens, surrounding a very tall gold-leafed temple, adorned on the very top by a golden cock.

Leaving the Golden Pavilion, we made our last tour of the day to the Ryoanji Temple (Buddhist), which is a rock garden. The garden ran the length of one of the temple's walls and was composed, naturally, entirely of rocks: several large rocks in a rectangle field of pebbles.

THE PEBBLES were raked in patterns, straight lines running lengthwise and similar lines circling the large rocks. We were told to imagine the latter as islands surrounded by the infinite sea, or mountain peaks pushing above the clouds in the infinite sky. Surrounding Ryoanji Temple was an exquisite earthen wall of various shades of brown and beige—much like adobe, yet entirely more beautiful, like a large ceramic piece created by an ancient master artist.

Our tour bus drove us to the Utano Youth Hostel. Here we were met by students from many parts of the globe. After a modest but wholesome dinner, most of us went out to see downtown Kyoto at night.

HOWEVER, WE bore in mind that we were required to be at the Hostel at 9 p.m. (or else be locked out), that everyone had to go to bed at 10, and that reveille was at 6 a.m. Some students toured the city on foot, some tried refreshments of the local restaurants, and others played pachinko—a type of pinball machine game popular in Japan.

Several of our group returned several minutes late, and were glad to find that the 9 o'clock curfew was not precisely enforced. For an hour

'Sakai Kids' Take Leave of Japan, Plan an Alumni Club for Berkeley

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By BENJAMIN GREGG

A Sayonara Party was held for the students by the four Rotary Clubs of Sakai, Aug. 12 at the Hotel Shin-toyo in Osaka.

The evening program consisted of an opening address by Dr. Matsunaga, an active participant in the exchange program and doctor for the Berkeleyans, should they need him, followed by speeches from Mayor Haze of Sakai, Mr. Miyamoto, leader of the 1970 Sakai-Berkeley Student Exchange, Reverend Kikawata, leader of the 1968 S.B.S.E., and Mrs. Harger.

WE ENJOYED dinner as we sat at tables with host families, Rotarians, members of the 1968 and 1970 Exchanges from Sakai, and other Japanese students and members of English-speaking clubs who had served as our guides.

During dinner we heard impromptu table speeches from Claudia Bugatto and Brandon Gregg, and were surprised when our hosts presented a birthday cake to Christopher Koch, whose birthday is today.

MORE GIFT exchanges were made, and as usual, the Berkeleyans received much more than they gave. After dinner we enjoyed songs, Koto (Japanese harp) and drums.

THE FIRST SONG played by the several women Koto

players was the American National Anthem, followed by "Sakura."

I would wager that the Berkeleyans knew the words to "Sakura" more than to their national anthem, as "Sakura" was one of the most performed pieces of their repertoire.

We heard part of the repertoire of the 1968 SBSE (the first exchange of students), and what the program listed simply as "drum."

THIS WAS A rousing performance of music played entirely on different-sized drums, the largest of which had a diameter of at least three feet.

Mr. Miyamoto, who loves Japanese folk dances, climbed onstage and danced for several minutes to the beat of the drums, much to the enjoyment of the performers onstage as well as to the audience's enjoyment.

The wonderful evening, enjoyed by the Berkeleyans with many of the people who had made their trip so wonderful, ended with a heart-felt rendition of "Auld Lang Syne." All of this started about 5:30 p.m. and concluded three hours later.

After that most of the Berkeley students attended a party at a local discotheque, and later enjoyed another party in the intimacy of one of the Sakai student's home.

THE LATTER concluded at 2 a.m., giving the more-than-few students who hadn't packed their bags before the Sayonara Party—as advised to do—5½ hours within which to do so, in addition to getting some sleep before the sad departure at 8 a.m. that morning.

THE NEXT DAY the 1971 BSSE members gathered with their host families at Shiminkaikon at 7:30 a.m. on this saddest of sad days. Much like the scene of the departure of the Sakai-Berkeley Exchange Students the year before, tears were shed and "sayonaras" reluctantly repeated. Several of the Japanese students accompanied us on the bus to Shin Osaka Station, where, at 9:25, we boarded the super limited express "Hikari" (a so-called "Bullet Train").

Arriving in Tokyo Station at 12:35 p.m., we were met by a bus which took us and our

baggage to the Ginza Dai Ryokan.

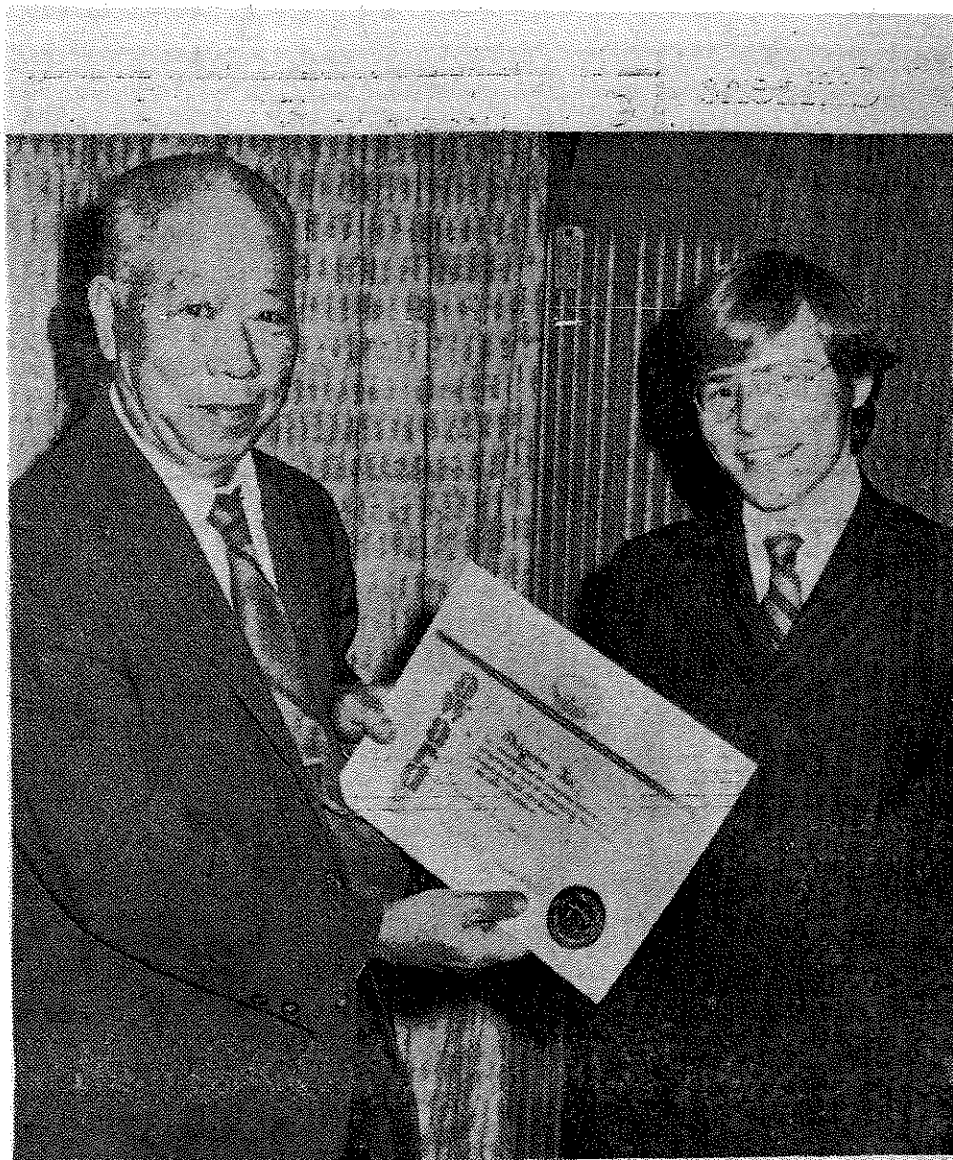
As this ryokan is in the Ginza district, and thus downtown Tokyo, last minute shopping was easily completed. During that afternoon we were surprised—and very glad—to see two of the Sakai students, who had decided the last moment to catch another train to Tokyo, so they could see us for a few more hours. After dinner all of the students enjoyed a night on Tokyo.

AFTER BREAKFAST the Daieso, the morning of Aug. 14, the students travel by bus to the Tokyo International Airport. Because several of the Sakai students had come to the airport with more tears from both nationalities were shed.

The Japan Air Lines 747 was to have departed 11:30, but left around 1 p.m.

This was certainly not the end, however. In the works is the formation of a Berkeley Students' Alumni Club.

And there is much to be done to prepare for the 1972 Sakai-Berkeley Student Exchange.



SISTER CITY HONOR — Shigeru Jio, father of Berkeley's Sister City relationship with Sakai, Japan, proudly displays an award presented to him by the Town Affiliation Assn. for his contribution to the program. That national Sister Cities association recently held its 13th annual conference in Washington, D.C. With Mr. Jio is Benjamin

Gregg, who attended the conference and accepted the award for Jio. Benjamin attended the conference as a winner in a national essay contest sponsored by the association. His essay on "What the Sister City Concept Means to Me" won third place in the high school division of the national contest.

Local Youths Sought for Japan Visit

The Berkeley-Sakai Sister City Association announces the organization of the Second Berkeley-Sakai Student Exchange, and invites High School Seniors and College Students to apply.

This Exchange is going into its fourth year as preparations for the second group of students from Berkeley to visit Sakai, Japan, in the summer of 1971 are made.

SIXTEEN STUDENTS came here from Sakai in 1968; fifteen Berkeley students were guests in

Sakai homes in 1969; and sixteen students were in Berkeley homes last July 25 to Aug. 10.

Participants must have a real interest in the country of Japan and its culture, a willingness to attend weekly seminars to prepare for the visit, and the desire to be a positive representative for Berkeley, for California and for the U.S.A.

The seminars will include discussions, movies, demonstrations by local resource people and field trips.

GROUP RATE transportation

cost will be the responsibility of each participant. Housing will be supplied by families in Sakai. This is reciprocal.

Those families which have not already housed a student from Sakai will be expected to be host families in 1972 when Sakai again sends students to Berkeley.

The visit will probably be of three weeks duration, the last week in July and the first two weeks in August. Specific dates and costs have not yet been determined.



SAKAI SALE — Derek Dang, left, discusses with Lynn Kreider and Claudia Bugatto the pricing of items to be sold this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the home of Professor and Mrs. Charles Koch, 2967 Avalon Ave. in Berkeley. Contributions of items to the sale are welcome, spokesmen said. Proceeds of the sale will be used to help defray the travel expenses of the 16 Berkeley area students who will travel to Sakai, Japan, next month in the Berkeley-Sakai sister city exchange program. William Cummerford, 1760 Solano Ave., can provide additional information, spokesmen noted.

New Sakai Alumni Group Looking for Host Families

The 17 members of the 1971 Berkeley-Sakai Student Exchange have formed an Alumni Club since their return from Japan.

It will work with the parent organization, the Berkeley-Sakai Assn., in promoting the sister city program.

The Alumni Club will undertake preparation and arrangement for the even-yearly Sakai delegations to the United States.

This means that the alumni will plan and carry through the activities for the 1972 Sakai-Berkeley Student Exchange during the latter's stay in Berkeley.

THE BERKELEY-SAKAI Assn. and the Alumni Club are looking for interested families (with children), who might want to host a Japanese student in their home for a week next July-August.

Families of the high school and college students who will go to Japan as members of the 1973 group must host a Sakai student.

Those interested in having a

son or daughter be a member of the Exchange will find the experience of hosting an excellent introduction to this program, spokesmen said.

Families whose children will not necessarily be a part of a future Exchange to Japan, but who are interested in hosting a Sakai student, are welcomed and needed.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Berkeley-Sakai Student Exchange Alumni Club will be Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. Persons interested in the sister city program are invited to attend, and should call 843-0375 for further information.

The members of the 1971 delegation have been in Berkeley three weeks since their departure from Tokyo Aug. 14.

Since returning they have been honored guests at a Lion's Club luncheon, enjoyed a festive welcome-home party, and had a slide and print showing of their Japan photographs.

The 1969 alumni are Terry Baker, Nancy Babington, Charlie Burton, Gwendolyn

Edmond, Patricia Green, Loral Harger Kenner, Amy Iwata, George Mallman, Demetri Marshall, Lynda Moore, Bob Morris, Robert Munk, Plezema Shack, Susan Shaw, Valerie Yasukochi, and leaders Mrs. and Mrs. M. E. (Gus) Moore.

The 1971 alumni are Madeleine Bergman, Caludia Bugatto, Roger Commerford, Derek Dang, Christofer Frasco, Sandra Granich, Benjamin Gregg, Brandon Gregg, David Hirota, Christopher Koch, Mia Kodani, Jean Kreider, Lynn Kreider, Roxanne Shack, Robin Taylor, assistant leader Bob Morris, and their leader, Mrs. Fern J. Harger.